

WESTGARTH WEEKLY



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Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Families,



We hope all families have enjoyed the summer break, in spite of the mixed weather. Let's hope for an "Indian summer"!

September COVID-19 Government Guidance

The guidance issued to schools and shared with you in July about how we are expected to operate from September has not changed. Here is a reminder:

There is still the expectation of good hand and cough hygiene; appropriate cleaning, particularly of high touch surfaces; and increased ventilation. Remote education provision also needs to stay in place for the year.

- It will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles').
- Assemblies, breaks and lunches together can resume.
- Staggered start and finish times are not deemed necessary for COVID related reasons. The school day for all full time children will revert to **drop off between 8.45 and 8.55am and collection at 3.00pm.**
- Children will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.
- Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

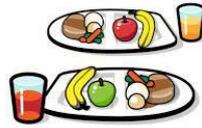
We have decided to keep some routines to ease congestion and to support safeguarding systems:

- One way systems on the paths in and out of school and between the buildings.
- KS1 children to enter and leave school through their classroom doors off the yard (If Reception/KS1 children travel to school on bikes or scooters, please could the adult parent/carer drop off the bike/scooter at the stores at the back of the KS1 building **after** children are dropped at the classroom on a morning and then collect the bike/scooter **before** children are collected on an evening).
- Year group/key stage messaging emails will remain for brief messages that do not need a reply. For absences, medical appointments or a request for a telephone appointment with a class teacher, please continue to use the main school office email.

Safeguarding

Children in Reception and KS1 need to be dropped off and collected at the classroom doors by a known, nominated adult. In years 3 to 5, please notify the school office by email if you have made the decision to allow your child to walk to and from school unaccompanied by an adult. In year 6, as part of preparations for the transition to secondary school, we encourage children to walk to and from school unaccompanied, where possible. For Y6 children only, please notify the school office by email if a child will **not** walk unaccompanied and will be dropped off and collected by an adult. Please do keep us up to date with any changes to the adults nominated to drop off and collect children.

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School Meals

We will be keeping the school meal ordering system, which has helped to reduce food waste and has, hopefully, allowed parents and carers to have a better overview of what children are eating each day and across the weeks.

Curriculum

To support parents and carers in knowing what children are learning in school, every term we publish a topic overview on the school website: see [Our Curriculum > Topic Maps](#). Autumn term overviews will be published by next Friday, 10th September. Please do take a look and keep chatting with your child about what they are learning in school.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Parents and carers of children in years 4 to 6 will be invited to attend a "Meet the Teacher" meeting in coming weeks (these meetings have already taken place in other year groups). These meetings will continue to take place remotely.



Staffing Update

Warmest congratulations to Miss Spinks and her partner on the safe arrival of their beautiful son, Roman, who was born on 26th July, weighing in at a healthy 8lb 3oz. Wonderful news to share with you all.

We look forward to seeing the children back in school tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woodhead
Headteacher